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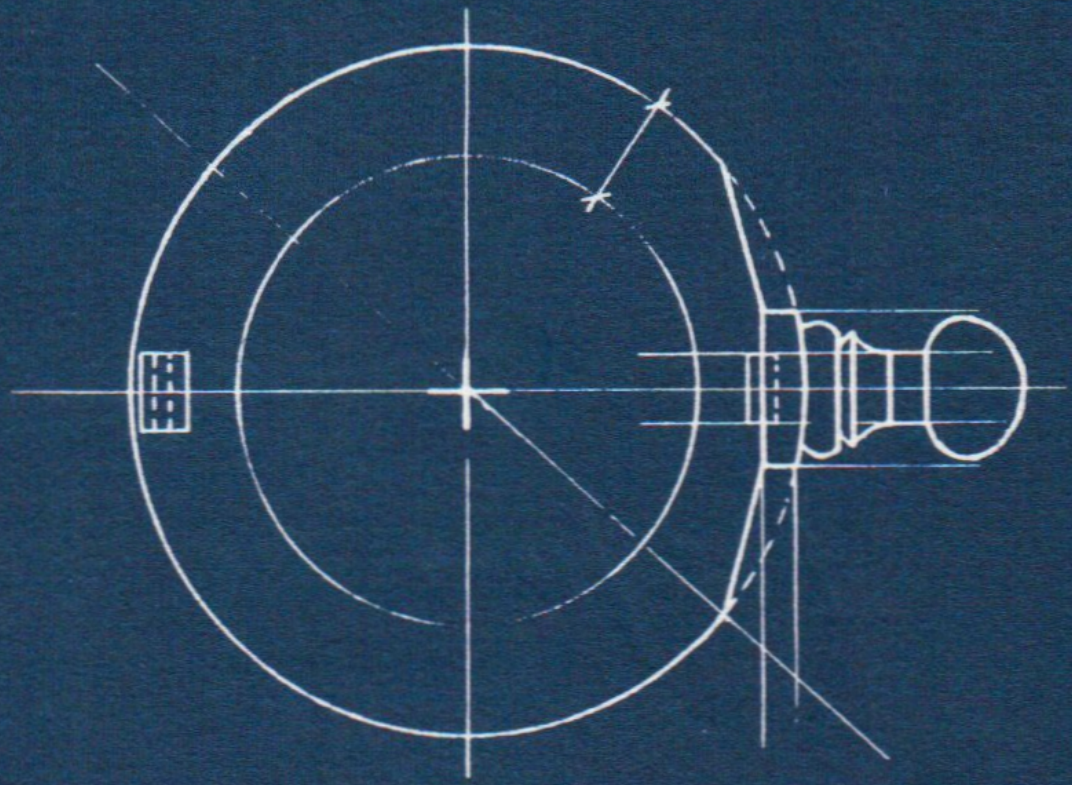

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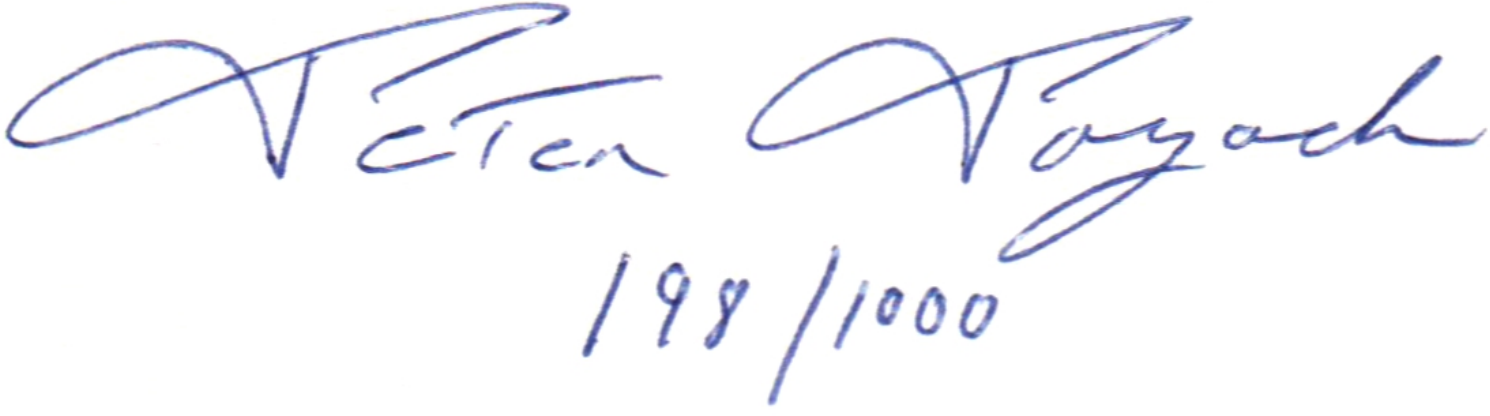

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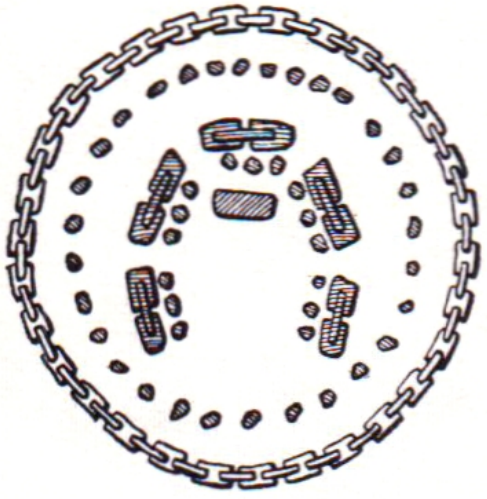

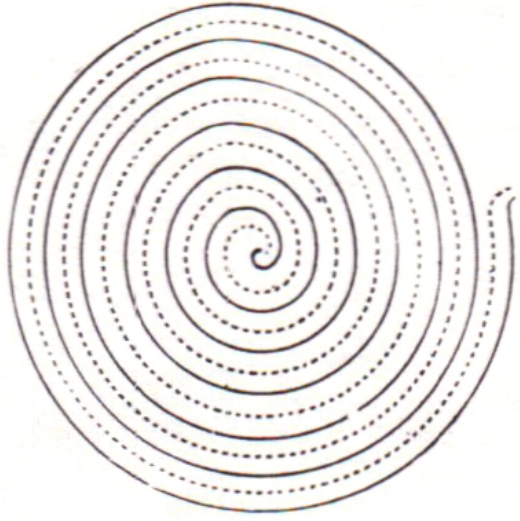

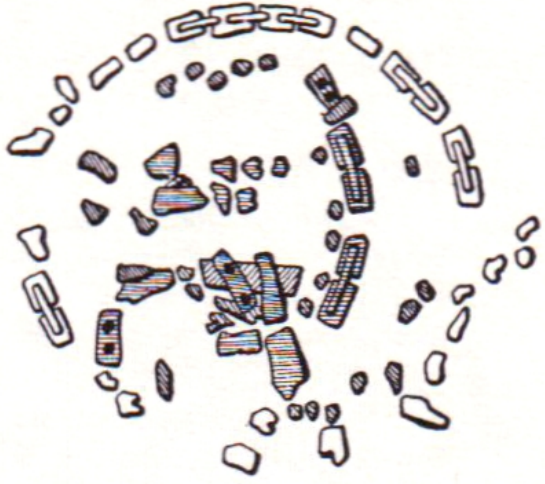

written by Peter Payack

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"STONEHENGE UNRAVELED" is dedicated to Monica, Michael, Mom & Dad.

Other Books By Peter Payack

The Growth of Human Ideas
No Free Will In Tomatoes
Rainbow Bridges
Shortest Poems (with Michael Kasper)
A Brief Guide To The Theory of Relativity
The (Not So Concise) Dictionary of Computer Terminology (with Opal Nations)
How We Built The Matterhorn

THE STONEHENGE WATCH
Patent Number Des. 276,141
THE IDEA WORKS, INC. •
P.O. Box 208
Pequannock, N. J. 07440

THE STONEHENGE WATCH trademark is registered with the United States Patent Office

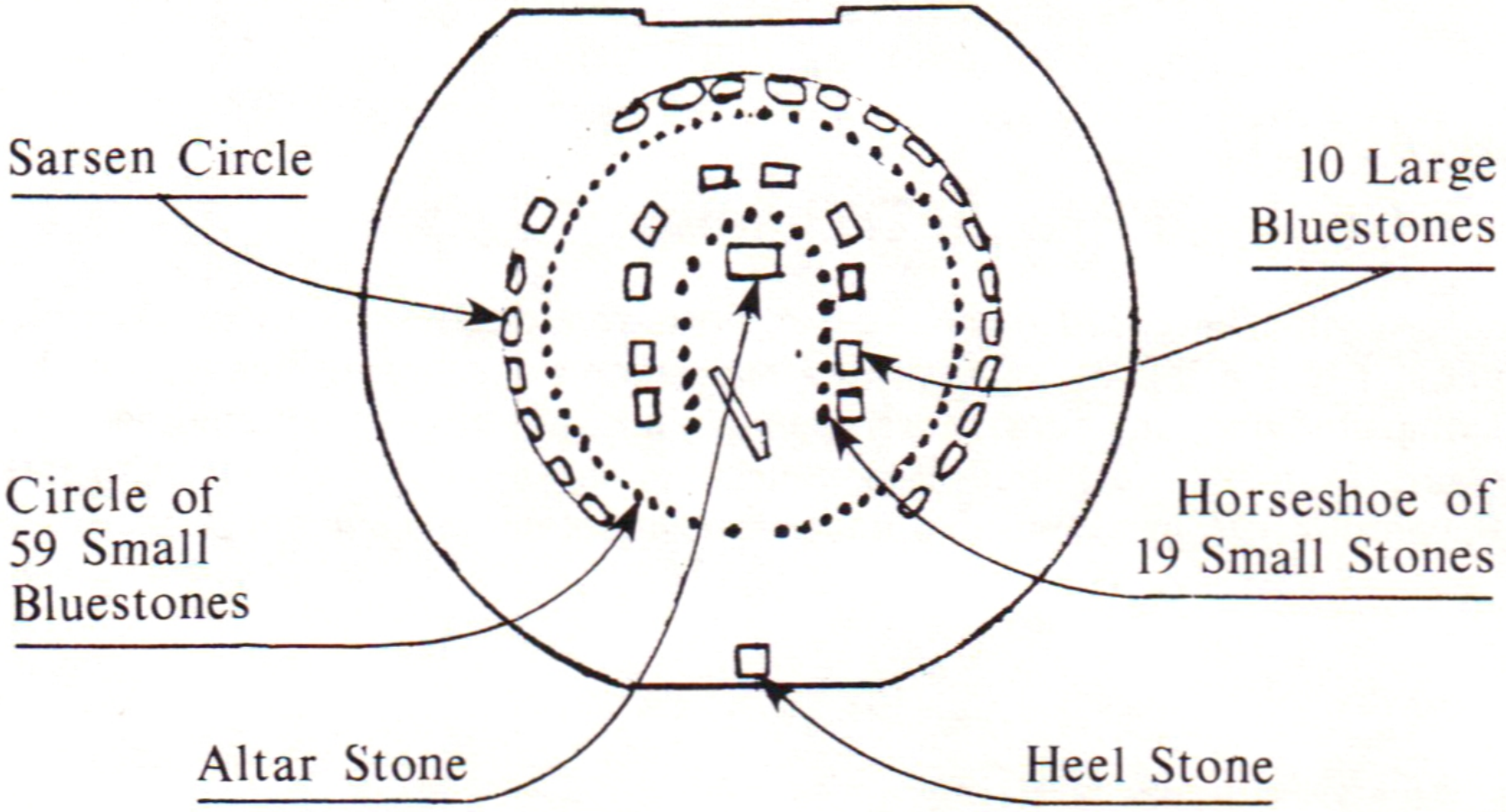
PREFACE

The Cutting Edge of Technology*

You are now the proud owner of the world-renowned **Stonehenge Watch**. Although it is a highly sophisticated and complex technical mechanism, by reading, studying, and constant reference to this intrepid instructional booklet, anyone, from an overly-educated molecular physicist to someone who just dropped down from a tree, can understand its many *fabulous* functions.

*A rather dull blade, perhaps, but the cutting edge nonetheless.

S C H E M A T I C


Sarsen Circle
10 Large Bluestones
Circle of 59 Small Bluestones
Horseshoe of 19 Small Stones
Altar Stone
Heel Stone

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Chapter 1
A BRIEF HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVE
"Five Thousand Years Old, and Still Ticking!"

1.1 OVERVIEW

Stonehenge was built by the legendary prehistoric peoples[1] of the British Isles, sometime after the enigmatic Extinction of the Dinosaurs, but most definitely before the advent of color television, or to narrow things down a bit, on or about 2350 BC, as a combination astronomical observatory, religious worship site, and neolithic tourist and entertainment complex.

It was 900 years in development, and was intended to appeal to adults and children of Cro-Magnons, Neanderthals, and Homo Sapiens from all over the (just barely) civilized world!

As one eminent scholar (who would rather keep her anonymity) so

[1]See "Who Built Stonehenge?," Chapter 2.

succinctly, if unarithmetically, told me after cocktails, "They sure don't build them like they used to; Stonehenge is five thousand years old and still ticking! Hic! (Sic!)."

What she meant was that after all these millennia you can still observe the summer and winter solstices, predict eclipses of the Moon and Sun, and even alter togas on its famous Altar Stone[2] all for the price of a single admission!

1.2 MONUMENTAL MONIKER

In addition to these practical astronomical, superstitious, and religious functions, and bearing witness to the vision and foresight of these so-called "primitive" entrepreneurs who built it, Stonehenge still attracts a countless number of visitors each year, well earning its moniker as **THE DISNEYLAND OF THE BRONZE AGE.**

[2]It is believed that this was the most sacred site of the Druid Tailoring Guild, and as such, it is speculated that several ceremonial robes were ritually, if not savagely, sacrificed here by inept apprentices, hence, the name Altar Stone.

Chapter 2
WHO BUILT STONEHENGE, ANYWAY?

2.1 OVERVIEW

Exactly who built Stonehenge is not known. Nor is it known whether the builders were awarded the contract in a fair-and-square legal manner, or if kickbacks were involved.

Since there were no Neolithic Ralph Naders (cf. section 9.4 "Sun at its Nadir") on Humanity's horizons then, who knows what might have gone down?

2.2 ROLE OF THE DRUIDS

Some people insist that the Druids built Stonehenge. Other imbeciles argue that Erick Von Daniken might have had something to do with it. I snicker and guffaw at both these farcical claims.

I think that I can speak for the majority of scientists, archeologists, and dilettantes alike, when I state rather *definitively* that exactly who built

Stonehenge is still a mystery. And although it is a very good one, it wasn't written by Agatha Christie.

2.2.1 WHY NOT AGATHA CHRISTIE?

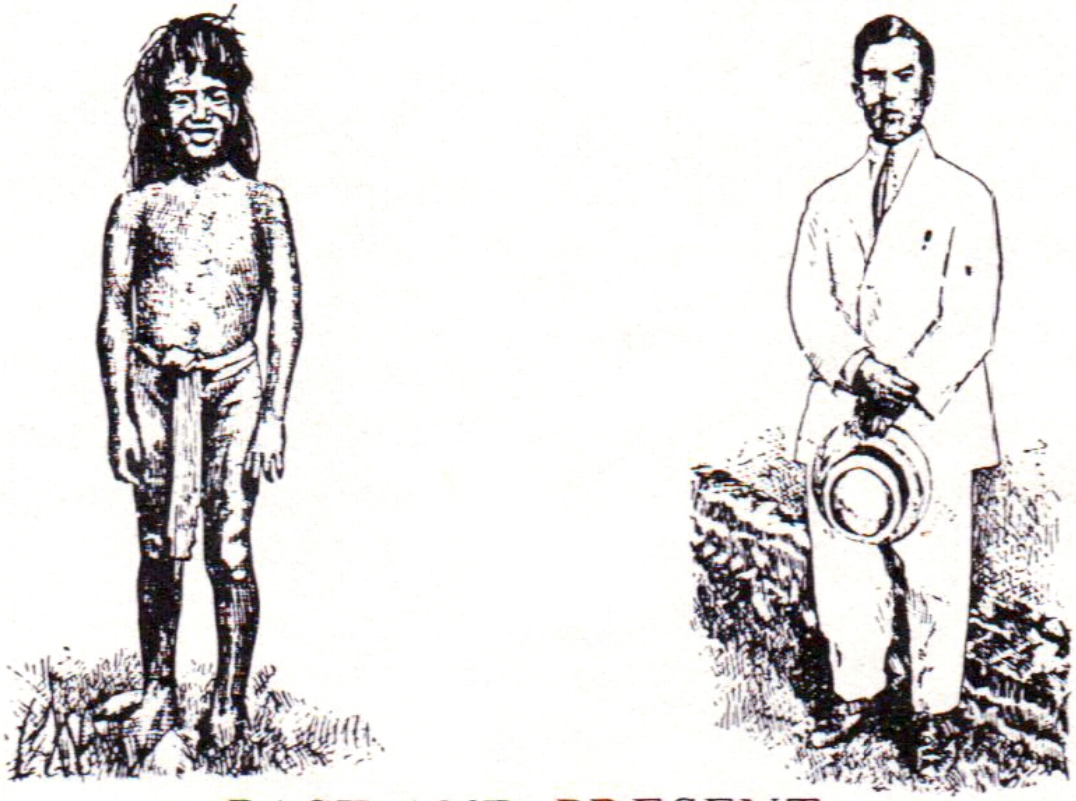
Agatha Christie wasn't born until 1891, so for all practical purposes, you can count her out.

2.3 PRIMITIVE PEOPLE, POLITE SOCIETY, AND PHYSICAL PROWESS

The builders of Stonehenge, whoever in the antiquated world they were, are usually referred to as a "primitive, less sophisticated people." This is because handkerchiefs, top hats, and other amenities of cultured life are never found at their grave sites.

But these delicate matters of etiquette aside, the very erection of such a monumental multifaceted structure gives proof that our forebears were our equals in intellectual, genetic, and physical endowments.

Even so, they were technologically more primitive than we are today, and as such, were not capable of producing such tantamount artifacts of post-



PAST AND PRESENT

The first picture is that of a Druid boy around the time Stonehenge was built; all of his tribe were of his stage of civilization. The second picture is that of the same boy, today.

industrial civilization as "neutron" bombs, frozen pizzas, or indoor/outdoor carpeting.

No matter how you look at it, this last product would have given Stonehenge a more polished modern appearance, while dramatically cutting down on cleaning expenses.

2.3.1 MENSIS BUREAUCRASIS

It has also been proven by geneticists, that these builders could not hold a candle to us Moderns when it comes to bureaucracy and useless paper work.

Scientists generally agree that the "bureaucratic mind" is a later devolutionary mutation.

Chapter 3
YOUR NEW STONEHENGE WATCH

3.1 VERITABLE VERSATILITY

The Stonehenge Watch is the most versatile, rugged, and enduring timepiece of all time. It has actually taken the "Test of Time" and received an A minus (the professor graded on the curve).

The monument has withstood not only the harsh natural elements of rain, snow, sleet, graffiti, and pigeon droppings, but has also survived the Invasion of the Romans in A.D. 69, the Normans in A.D. 1066, and the American and Japanese tourists in A.D. 1965 and A.D. 1974.

Chapter 4

A GREAT LEAP BACKWARD IN TIME!

4.1 THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE STONEHENGE WATCH

Like a frenzied frog deliriously hopping, jumping, and croaking all the way back to Stone Age England, the Stonehenge Watch represents a monumental leap *backward* in time!

It is the first large-scale 20th century retreat from the tyranny of ultra-precise timekeeping.

4.2 DUNKIRK, COMPARISON WITH

The whole kit and caboodle of the evacuation of the British and Allied Forces from Dunkirk, from the tyrannical grasp of the Nazis, in 1940, was also a colossal retreat, but that is something altogether different.

4.3 ORGANIC SENSE OF TIME

By recognizing and utilizing the rhythmic movements of the revolving of the

Earth, the ever-changing phases of the Moon, and the apparent rising and setting of the Sun, the Stonehenge Watch is a more "organic" way of telling time.

This "organic" sense of time, of course, is in direct opposition to our post-modern sensibilities, where time is an objectified thing abstracted away from the natural cadences of the cosmos.

Most assuredly, the Stonehenge Watch is "natural & organic" only in a lofty and metaphysical sense, and is not meant to be eaten.[1]

This timepiece, then, allows the individual who owns one "to get the feel" of the cyclical nature of the hours, days, months, seasons, and years in a way that is so tantalizing and inviting as to be almost obscene!

4.3.1 OBSCENITY, PORNOGRAPHY, & THE LIKE

Obscenity, pornography, and the general turning away of the Western Industrial Democracies from the traditional *absolute values* are other areas of retreat in our century.

But these poignant issues are for the moral philosophers to debate, and since they are not really our concern here, the hell with them!

[1]However, if your local health food store doesn't carry it, see the manager.

Chapter 5
A DIGITAL COMPUTER

5.1 INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING

The Stonehenge Watch, that you are now affectionately fondling in your hands, is designed to be used in conjunction with *the most sophisticated computer that ever existed in the entire history of the overwhelming, over-inflated universe*: Your brain, feeble as it may seem![1]

5.2 UNLIKE ANY OTHER COMPUTER

Unlike other less sophisticated, and more costly computers, like the unwieldy and out-of-date UNIVAC, the human brain can hold over 10^{74} bits of information (give or take a few) which are readily available "at your fingertips"

[1]NOTE: To keep the "human computer" in tip-top running condition, eat three (3) balanced meals a day (preferably from the four basic food groups), get plenty of exercise (personally I prefer running), and try to get a good eight hours of shut-eye each night.

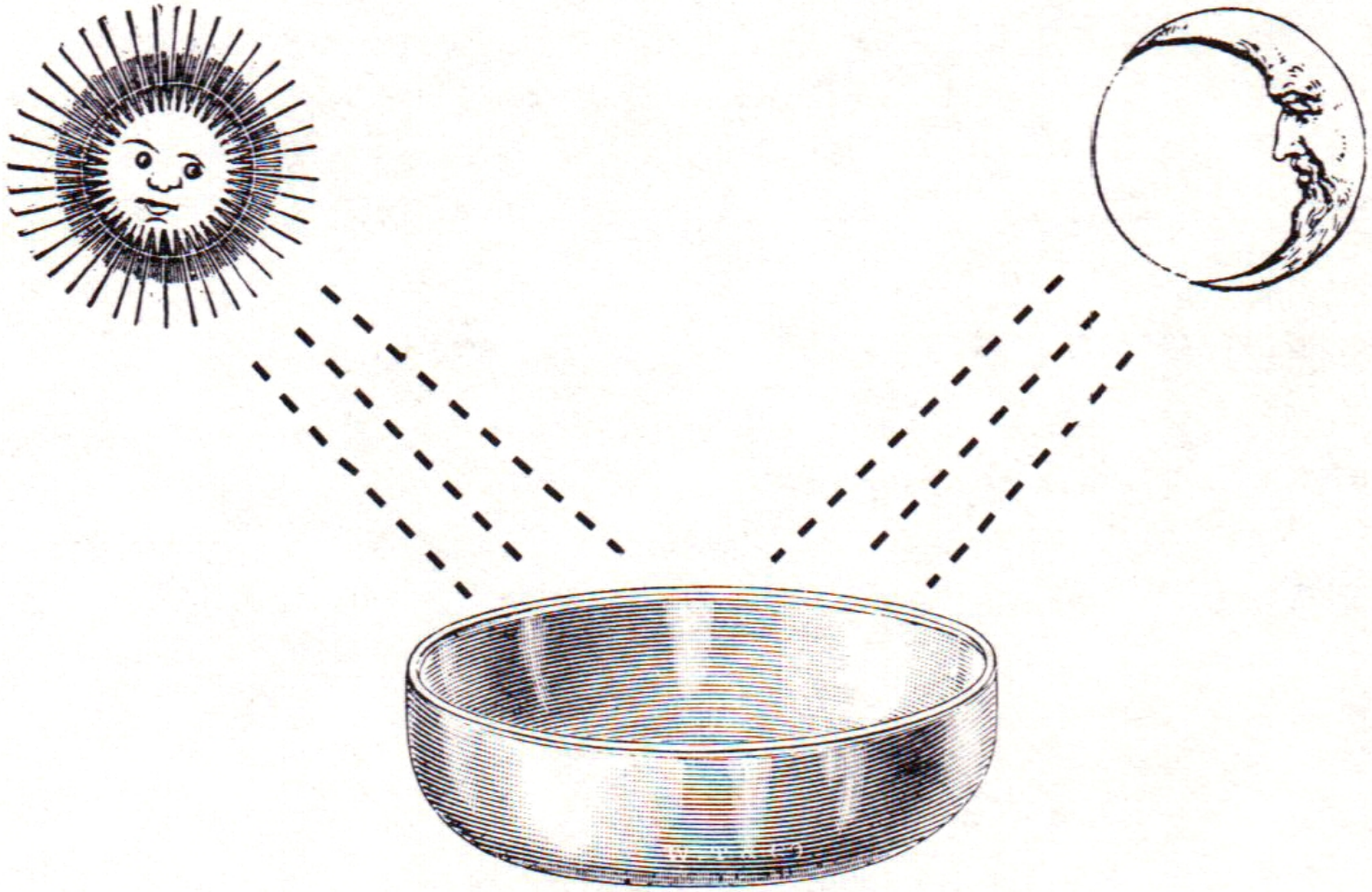
(your *digits*, in a technical sense), 24 hours-a-day, without the aid of dull-witted, pusillanimous, wearisome, sniffling, and otherwise problematic programmers.

In this way, the Stonehenge Watch (if you stretch your fertile imagination), is a digital computer, of sorts, that has been programmed to function for over 5,000 years.[2]

5.2.1 PONDEROUS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

And so, with ponderous, intoxicated, and self-serving reasoning, the designers of the precious Stonehenge Watch righteously rationalized "Why in the world should we equip the timepiece with a %@#$& costly microcomputer, when we can just as well get away with using the old noodle?"

[2]See the GUARANTEE at the back of this instructional booklet. The guarantee of 5,000 years should be kept in a safe deposit box and handed down (with bombastic ritualism) from generation to generation. This GUARANTEE is void after December 31, 6,982. It is also null & void in the event of the Sun going *Nova*, in which case your timepiece might prove unreliable. We can only guarantee the watch, not the Sun.



WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

The Sun and the Moon and the special tray used to collect rays.

Chapter 6
SOLAR AND LUNAR POWERED

6.1 HARNESSES THE RAW POWER OF THE MOON

The solid-state Stonehenge Watch, in an astounding and astonishing technological breakthrough, is not only *solar powered*, but is also *lunar powered*!

To find out how this is done, in exacting technical detail, see the explanation below. (Recommended for experts only!)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

alsiekdj fryg hrjfkdls;aksk protons generated by the Sun a;slwi fjgh conversion a; qlwidjfhr hvybms: kk also the moon reflects slwicjvhzh qieurytng. skdfjgh ingenious breakthrough z/sldk lunar tides z/sls aliwurhv as Aristotle said z. skdfhwe poiureeoi ruty eeoyqpi first of its kind vc. xcmva; lskdjslkd woieruwoieur Nobel Prize Winner qwerro lask djh fert yerty every 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes qwer werewqwe pqwoei woie every 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes qweor iuriu tyo eir Kabbalists have proven asl dkwoe i ue oo THE

OMEN, starring Gregory Peck qweoirue oritus lslkdfj noted professor of Astrology slskdjw as lfs lk djfwjehr wkjehr ieruy twieur ywieury![1]

[1]Unfortunately, the United States Defense Department has found it necessary to censor this section for "National Security Reasons." (Heaven help us all!)

Chapter 7
HOW TO TELL THE LOCAL APPARENT TIME

7.1 APPARENT INTRODUCTION

The oldest, most "natural," and least exact method of time measurement[1] is to note the movement of the Sun across the sky by tracking its shadow.

7.2 THINK STONE AGE

Of course, it is actually the Earth that is moving, and not the Sun, but try to ignore this astronomical fact, and make a concerted effort to "think Stone Age."

Grunting sometimes helps.

7.3 FORGET ABOUT PLATO

The Stonehenge Watch, by making use of this natural phenomenon, can be

[1]That is, if you rule out Ouija Boards, and wild guessing.

thought of as a "shadow clock" and utilized to tell the "local apparent" time of day.

Now some phlegmatic philosophers say that the whole of the Western Intellectual Tradition is based upon Plato and his allegory of the *Cave of Shadows* which attempts to resolve the philosophical dichotomy between the ideal and the apparent, but that's another story.

Anyway, we're trying to think Neolithically here, grunting, groaning, and scratching our way through this chapter, so even Plato, smart guy that he was, won't be of any use to us.

7.4 RECKONING TIME

To tell the apparent time, then, hold the Stonehenge Watch in your hand, and using the arrow as a directional pointer, position the timepiece due north at 12 o'clock noon.

You can always locate north by sighting the North Star (Polaris) the previous night, and then patiently standing around, caressing the watch caringly, until the next noon. Patience is a virtue (however overrated), and the morning dew will not hurt the timepiece.

You can determine if it is 12 o'clock noon in one of three wily ways: a) the shadows are shortest, b) the Sun is at its highest point in the sky, or c) by hanging out at the O.K. Corral and listening for the gunfire.

Finally, using the Altar Stone as your focal point (and thinking of the arrow as pretty much pointing to the 12 o'clock position), "read" the *collective* shadows of the megaliths as the move around the dial, as you would the hour hand of a conventional clock, to calculate the local apparent time.[2]

[2]CAUTION: At "High Noon," watch out for errant bullets!

ADDENDUM 7A

ADDENDUM TO HOW TO TELL THE LOCAL APPARENT TIME

7A.1 FOR LOCAL YOKELS ONLY!

If all of the preceding chapter is too complicated, or just too much of a bother to think about,[1] and you are not concerned with any exactitude to speak of, your Stonehenge Watch is also programmed by our sunstruck staff of specialists to tell the "apparent, even to a local yokel" time.

For example, if sunlight falls on the most accurately reproduced and reduced to scale megaliths (which were manufactured according to the latest advances in precision engineering), and they cast a shadow, whatever length or position, then you can pretty well bet your boots it is daytime!

Whereas, if the stars are ablaze in the heavens, and no shadows are in

[1] I know *my* head is throbbing.

evidence, it is nighttime.

The Stonehenge Watch is *fully guaranteed* to be accurate, within 12 hours, or your money back.[2]

7A.2 IN CASE OF A PLAGUE OF DARKNESS

If it is cloudy, or a *Plague of Darkness*[3] is set upon the Earth, there is not much we can do about it, is there?

[2]Try and get it!

[3]Copyright ©1275 B.C. by Moses.

ADDENDUM 7Aa

ADDENDUM TO THE ADDENDUM TO HOW TO TELL THE LOCAL APPARENT TIME

7A.a.1 HOW TO ADJUST YOUR TIMEPIECE TO "DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME"

The human animal has survived for over four million years, in one gruesome form or another, because of an innate ability known to anthropologists and students of Human Nature as *plasticity*, or the ability to adapt to diverse (not to mention downright weird or obnoxious), environments and circumstances.

In this *espirit de corps*, please make a mental adjustment!

Chapter 8
HOW TO COMPUTE A LUNATION

8.1 LUNA-CY, YANKEE NO!

A lunation is, of course, one full cycle of lunar phases, commencing with the time of the new moon, and then followed in sequence by a quarter moon, full moon, the last quarter, waxing and waning, and finally ending with the subsequent new moon. Phew!

The length of a lunation, accordingly, is the time between one new moon and the next, which modern day annoyingly picayune astronomers figure to be 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, and 2.8 seconds.

8.2 PURPOSE OF THE MEGALITHS

On your Stonehenge Watch, like at long-standing Stonehenge itself, the 30 monstrous megaliths of the Sarsen Circle represent each of the 30 days of the

month; the Sarsen Circle serves as a permanent lunar calendar.[1]

In olden days, when men were men (however remotely), and Stonehenge was "the latest thing," the 29.5 days of the lunar month were marked by moving a slick indicator stick one stone each day.

A pagan priest was most probably in charge of properly positioning this sacred stick. Granted, it was not much of a job, but it sure beat having to work for a living!

Interestingly, one megalith at the monument itself (as marked on your watch with a small ½), was approximately ½ the size of the other megaliths, and in all likelihood was indicative of a half day.

Neolithic school children loved this megalith, and even today *my* heart pitter-patters at a fluttering pace when I look at that megalith.

[1]Megalithic morons relied upon the Moon and its phases to plan their day-to-day activities, as this was before the advent of appointment books and social secretaries. Whereas, for seasonal activities, like the planting of crops, warding off the springtime invasion of the seafaring barbarians, and filing income tax forms, the movement of the Sun was utilized (see "How to Tell the Seasons," Chapter 9).

8.3 A NEOLITHIC CRIB SHEET

To make it even easier for neolithic nerds who couldn't deal in fractions, there were 59 Small Bluestones (represented by the circle of small stones that is located immediately inside the circumference of the megaliths), that stood for the 59 days of *two* lunar months.

8.4 IGNORE OUTHOUSES

To avoid any possibility of confusion when calculating a lunation, it is best to make your keen observations out of the sight of an "outhouse" door.

Chapter 9
HOW TO TELL THE SEASONS

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Your new Stonehenge Watch is an accurately reproduced megalithic computer that will allow you to measure the seasons of the year in the time honored manner of your neolithic forebears, just like great-great-great-

FEBUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	1	2
3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1	2	3	1	2	3	1
2	3	1	2	3	1	2
3	1	2				

A RUDIMENTARY CALENDAR

9.3 THE SUN AT ITS ZENITH

During the Summer, the Sun is higher in the sky than in the winter, and accordingly, the shadows are shorter. As you might have guessed, Mensa candidate that you undoubtedly are, shadows are the shortest on/or about June 22nd when the Sun is at its *Zenith*, or highest.

This is a natural phenomenon, and drugs or other artificial stimulants are not involved.

9.3.1 THE MUCH BALLYHOOED "HEEL STONE PHENOMENON"

Correspondingly, it is on this "Midsummer's Day" that the Sunrise reaches its northernmost point. You can demonstrate this much ballyhooed event by positioning your classy chronometer on an east-facing windowsill, being careful to point the arrow due north, and using the North Star as your guide. This aligns your watch with the still standing Stonehenge monument in England.

At Sunrise, if you happen to wake up in time, watch in awful astonishment as the Sun rises dramatically over the Heel Stone!

To heighten the heroic histrionics of this enchanted cosmic occurrence, procure a recording of Richard Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra, Opus 30." Blast it at 120 decibels for full effect.

By the way, if you happen to see hundreds of little Druids celebrating and cavorting in a primitive pagan ceremony, please drop me a note, and I will be glad to forward it immediately to officials at the local sanitarium.

9.4 THE SUN AT ITS NADIR

Conversely, it follows that midday shadows are longest at the time of the Winter Solstice (December 22nd) when the Sun, which now rises at its southeastern extreme, is at its *Nadir*, or lowest, both physically and emotionally.

The Sun has been shining continuously for over five billion years, and while not exactly manic/depressive, it does have its ups and downs.

Midway through these dates are the Vernal and Autumnal Equinoxes, when the Sunrise is due east, and consequently there is an equal amount (12 hours) of light and darkness, although we cannot vouch for good and evil. The Equinoxes occur on/or about March 21st and September 22nd, respectively.

9.5 DON'T HESITATE TO EXTRAPOLATE!

To figure out the dates of the other 361 days of the solar year, you can use your Stonehenge Watch to either gauge the varying lengths of noontime shadows, or make note of the changing point of the Sunrise.

And good luck to you, mate![1]

[1]OK, we know that this archaic art is a sort of inexact, if not downright apocryphal and obsolete, method to remember birthdays, anniversaries, and appointments with your parole officer. But remember, it is the sacred hallowed way of *your* ancestors!

Chapter 10

THE LOST ART OF ECLIPSE PREDICTION AT STONEHENGE

10.1 INTRODUCTION

It has been positively proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that eclipses of the Moon and Sun were predicted, with unerring accuracy, with the aid of Stonehenge as a sort of over-sized megalithic computing and sighting device.

10.2 HARD EVIDENCE

Lacking any hard evidence for the above assertion does not seem to affect some of our most celebrated astronomers, distinguished archeologists, and other pre-eminent effete aesthetes from making such confounding claims, and certainly does not affect us!

We, the manufacturers of the patent-pending and fully guaranteed Stonehenge Watch, are not particularly proud. We actually get a vicarious

charge out of making such an outrageous and exorbitant claim.

10.3 THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

But to get back to the purpose of this chapter, while artlessly sidestepping the age-old philosophical quibble about the purpose of life, eclipses of the Moon and Sun were found to occur in 18-year cycles, or to be more precise[1] every 18 years, 11 days, and 8 hours.

This 18-plus year cycle is symbolically delineated by the 19 small stones that make up the miniature horse shoe formation closest to the Altar Stone.

10.4 MOONSTRUCK BUT NOT LUNATIC

While the 365¼ day calendar that we use in contemporary Western Society is based upon the motions of the Sun, it should be remembered that our forebears, like moonstruck lovers, paid considerable attention to the ever-changing phases of the Moon. And this eclipse cycle of 18 years, 11 days, and 8 hours is equal to *exactly 223 complete lunar cycles.*

[1]For the Type A's, Neurotics, and Anal Compulsives among you.

How they hit upon this auspicious number is an absolutely inspiring and uplifting story of human courage and imagination.

Unfortunately, those pages of the history books have been ripped out by naughty students of pre-history, folded into tiny primitive paper aeroplanes, and ultimately set sail and lost upon the fickle winds of time.

We can only conjecture as to the details.

10.5 THE MOST UP-TO-DATE RESEARCH METHODS

On the other hand, I can tell you how I found it! I just rolled up my sleeves, spit on my hands and went to work, spending a loathsome amount of time (if not the better part of an afternoon), in the children's corner of a small, about-to-be-closed branch of the public library, and looked it up in various reference books, journals, encyclopedias, and the like.

And that was exasperating enough!

But since Neolithic civilizations did not have books, let alone pens, pencils, paper, card catalogues, libraries, or helpful reference librarians, they probably didn't find out about it the way I did.

10.6 A CLOSE COLLEAGUE'S HYPOTHESIS

A close colleague of mine, who is a self-taught expert of emergent megalithic civilizations (and a retired bookie), confidentially intimated to me (when I recently paid him a visit at Folsom Prison), that maybe they got "an inside tip from a disgruntled Babylonian who was a little short of silver shekels."

Even though this *Bookie Emeritus* gave me two to one odds, and while it did sound plausible enough, that probably wasn't in the cards.

And most likely it wasn't "just a lucky guess" as my spacy sister Chris sincerely suggested. Sorry Sis!

10.7 A MONUMENTAL SIGHTING DEVICE

Apparently these ancient Isaac Newtons acquired this esoteric knowledge by making innumerable tedious and precise observations over many 18-year periods. They recorded them accurately and handed the information down fastidiously over many succeeding generations. And this was all done without the aid of desktop photocopiers, carbon paper, or family therapists.

Since the lunar orbit is "out of whack"[2] by more than five degrees to the

[2] Please excuse the technical scientific jargon.

plane of the ecliptic, in order for a lunar eclipse to occur, the Sun, the Moon, and the Earth must all be directly in line, cosmically queuing-up, so that the Earth can cast (not unlike pearls before swine) its shadow on the Moon.

Taking this into account, Stonehenge was thus used as a monumental "sighting device" to make observations of the northernly and southernly rising and setting points of the Sun (cf. Chapter 9 "How To Tell The Seasons") and Moon. The horseshoe-shaped arrangement of the ten Large Bluestones was probably used to make these nit-picking measurements. It was these meticulous sightings, then, along with computations of the angles involved, that would give a pretty good estimate as to when all three bodies would line-up in the same plane.

You know the old saying, "Two's company, and three in a plane is an eclipse?"

10.8 PERSISTENT DULLARDS

Well, I guess the story is really a lot more dull than I at first suspected, but let's at least give these ancient embryonic astronomers credit for persistence.

So, what was ultimately observed at Stonehenge, however time-consuming

& tiresome, is that eclipses occur in a *predictable* cycle, and that after a specific period of time elapses, the same sequence of eclipses begins to repeat. For instance, an eclipse that occurred on June 30, 1973 will be followed by one at roughly the same latitude and duration on July 11, 1991, *223 lunations* later. And so on!

10.9 MOMENTOUS MONOTONY

No matter how you look at it, this was a monotonous, if not momentous, discovery. And once this natural cycle was ascertained, the prediction of eclipses became a tasty piece of chocolate cake with gobs of creamy icing.

The goldbrickers-in-charge of the Stonehenge Observatory could now sit back, with their feet up on the Altar Stone while puffing on their cigars, drinking their cheap whiskey, and take life easy for a change!

One certain advantage of the Stonehenge Watch, over ramshackle olde Stonehenge itself, is that it can be held in your very hands and thus facilitate sightings.

10.10 ANOTHER METHOD OF ECLIPSE PREDICTION

But why get yourself agitated with annoying and bothersome sightings when

another extremely accurate and foolproof method of foretelling eclipses is at your stodgy fingertips: In the almanac section of your daily morning newspaper.

This saves many headaches, eases eye-strain, and is in the time-honored and glorious tradition of goldbricking.

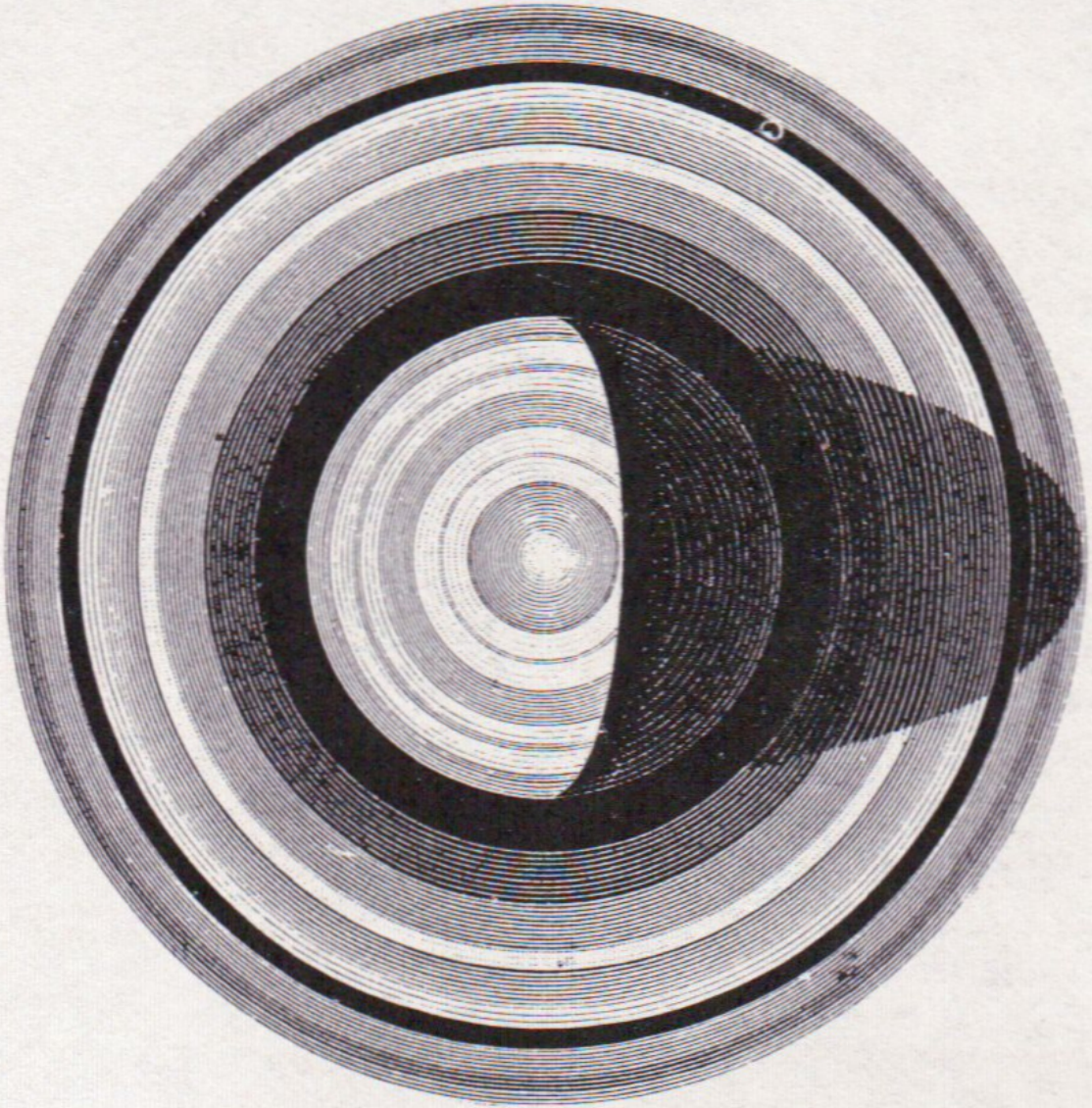
We cannot recommend it highly enough!

10.11 A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

Now, when you read in the local rag that an eclipse is about to occur, take out your patent-pending Stonehenge Watch, and while making as pretentious, noisy, and obnoxious a fuss as you can possibly get away with, grandiloquently prognosticate to your naive and impressionable friends that 223 lunations later (count 'em!), an eclipse will again occur in that very spot!

While it is not absolutely necessary for the stiffs to stand on that exact spot continuously for 18 years, 11 days, and 8 hours, it does make the prediction much more majestic and meaningful when it comes.

And for your sake, Jake, we hope it is not cloudy!



Chapter 11
FUNCTIONS AS A COMPASS

11.1 A PARADOXICAL CONUNDRUM RESOLVED

To find the direction of north, at the time of the Vernal or Autumnal Equinoxes (cf. Section 9.4) stand with your right hand where the Sun appears to rise (the east), and your left hand where it appears to set (the west).

As far as I can figure it, making sure which hand is which is a paradoxical conundrum that is beyond the bounds of normal human comprehension.

My best advice would be to find a responsible kindergarten teacher and *trust* what he/she tells you!

11.2 GEPETTO WOULD BE PROUD

With that incongruous ponderable resolved and your body properly positioned, as you look straight ahead, your nose points toward the North. Pinocchio would be at a definite advantage here and also, by the way, an ideal companion for a camping trip.

But, alas, since we are not all endowed with a proboscis like that legendary blockhead Pinocchio, point the arrow of your timepiece in that mystical magnetic direction.

Chapter 12
GUARANTEED ACCURACY

12.1 UNLIKE A SPIRAL GALAXY

This timeless timepiece is guaranteed never to wind down!

How can this be possible when everything in the material world, including the spinning of the planet Earth, the revolving of our galactic spiral, and the expansion of the very universe itself are all irrevocably running out of energy according to the Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropic Doom)?

Simply, the manufacturers of the Stonehenge Watch possessed enough foresight, ingenuity, and general all-around smarts, *not* to equip this sophisticated device with a mainspring to snap or wind down, a battery to leak or run down, or a solar cell to fog over or break down!

12.2 SOLID-STATE CONSTRUCTION

In fact, the Stonehenge Watch is completely solid, containing no moving or complicated parts whatsoever!

DISCLAIMER

Given all of the above, it is not possible to guarantee the Stonehenge Watch from the disastrous effects of the direct hit of a thermonuclear warhead. However, your watch is neutron warhead proof,[1] and will also survive famine, plague, pestilence, and relatives.

[1]After a neutron warhead strike, at no additional cost, the timepiece is warranted to glow in the dark!

Chapter 13

SOPHISTICATED GRAVITATIONAL INDICATOR

13.1 AMAZE YOUR (DULL-WITTED) FRIENDS

When attached to a handsome silver chain, or a tattered scrap of worn string (for the crude dudes among you), and let to hang down, the versatile Stonehenge Watch, fully manufactured to utilize the *mysterious natural forces of gravity*, will point directly to the CENTER OF THE EARTH! And with the help of a slide rule, a piece of paper, a pencil, and a home computer, it can locate the precise position of Pat Boone[1] within one second of one degree!

[1]One-time lead actor in the immortal class "B" science fiction flick, Journey to the Center of the Earth.

Chapter 14
SUITABLE FOR MEDITATION

14.1 AN IDEAL CENTERING DEVICE

The Stonehenge Watch has been skillfully crafted to be used as a "centering device," to achieve inner peace, tranquility, and a sense of harmonic oneness with the universe.

14.2 THE IMPECCABLE TECHNIQUE

Sit in a quiet room, with your legs crossed in a "full lotus" position. A "full lotus," for those of you unfamiliar with the ancient and honorable art of Yoga, is the eastern variation of a "full Nelson," except that you do it to yourself.

In your mind's eye, fix an image of the Stonehenge Watch along with its many magnanimous functions.

Now, while placing one hand to your head as if you were about to scratch an itch, rhythmically take deep breaths. As you exhale, chant in a low, dignified,

long, drawn out way "Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh?"[1]

If executed properly, this technique should provide you with a most peculiar alternate state of unconsciousness.

[1]In a startling discovery by our competent staff of etymological researchers, it has been found that "Uhhhhhhhhhhhh?" is a philologic precursor to the more commonly used (and inelegant) "Ommmmmmmmmmmmmmmm." Some cultures (excluding, of course, yogurt culture), prefer the companion variant "Duhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh?" Both are perfectly legitimate to use.

Chapter 15
THE GAMES MODE

15.1 INTRODUCTION

The games mode of your Stonehenge Watch is programmed to work at five levels (!) of functionality.

Try your fumbling hands at it, but don't be discouraged by the utter complexity of the games. Remember, it was programmed by the best in the field![1]

15.2 "FOOL YOUR NEIGHBOR" (Novice)

Show your neighbor the Stonehenge Watch under artificial light. A blinking neon sign on Broadway would be our number-one choice. If you simulate the right light conditions (drugs can sometimes help), you will fool him/her into waiting for hours (if not days, months, or years!) for an eclipse that never comes.

[1]For obvious reasons, former N.Y. Mets infielder Marvelous Marv Throneberry was *not* one of our programmers.

15.3 "FOOL YOUR NEIGHBOR II" (A Slightly More Sophisticated Variation)

Tie a string to the Heel Stone of the remarkable and one-of-a-kind Stonehenge Watch.

Holding onto the other end of the string (give yourself plenty of slack, Jack), place it on the sidewalk and stand behind a fence, bush, or automobile. (Do *not* hide behind a police cruiser.) When an unsuspecting person passes by, and seeing the watch, bends to pick it up, *pull* the string with a sudden jerk. Now see who feels like a *jerk*! Barrels of laughs! A game almost as old as Stonehenge itself.

15.4 "SHORT PILLAR/LONG PILLAR" (Advanced)

Great in large groups! Have each person grab a megalith firmly, and SNAP IT OFF!

This should be performed with as much ritualistic pomp and ceremony as possible. (Druid dress is most effective, although optional.)

When all the pillars are broken, compare the pieces left in each player's hand. The person with the puniest pillar piece has to purchase the next watch.

This game is highly educational, and the manufacturers, noble and pure of heart as we are, cannot recommend it highly enough!

15.5 "SHE/HE/IT[2] LOVES ME, SHE/HE/IT LOVES ME NOT" (Expert, Recommended for Ph.D.'s Only!)

Pull megalithic pillars out one by one, alternately stating "She/He/It loves me, She/He/It loves me not" to find out the true state of your love's amorous feelings.

Theoretically, according to an advanced mathematical model (the coin flip), this watch is accurate 50% of the time. Not bad odds in these dark and dreary days of discombobulated uncertainty.

Recent reports have come in that favorable odds have been increased by starting with "She/He/It loves me not." Play under a full moon, in partial eclipse, for full romantic value.

15.6 "THE MUSICAL MODE" (Only for Those Cultured Individuals With Higher Aesthetic Sensibilities and Tastes)

Grasp a toothpick delicately between your thumb and index finger, and

[2]It is not our intention to offend oddballs.

daintily run it around and around the watch against the circular Sarsen Stones. A Pleasant clicking sound will result. Entire songs can be created in this fashion.

You can form a band, a quartet, or even an orchestra! This game is much fun and a potential money-maker.[3]

[3] An historical note: There is some (admittedly spotty) archeological evidence that the Druids used to play this game with tree trunks, and mammoth tusks.

RUNS FOREVER
OR 5000 YEARS
WHICHEVER IS FIRST
GUARANTEE

GLOSSARY

ANTHRO-POLOGIST: An apologist for the past follies, faults, and injustices of humankind.

BROU-HAHA: Guffaws after slugging down a few brews.

DULLARD: A dull duck, especially endemic to the mallard variety. (see **LUNATION**)

DRU-ID: An artist's rendering of the counterpart to Sigmund Freud's ego and superego.

ENTROPIC DOOM: The existential sinking sensation passengers feel when, on a jet excursion to the tropics, they encounter engine failure.

EX-HALE: What the British troops did to Nathan Hale (1755-76), American Revolutionary War patriot.

GLOS-SARY: A sorry compilation of glossed-over definitions.

GNO-MON: A Rastafarian Jamaican reciting the first two words of John Donne's immortal poem "No Man Is An Islande."

GRAFITTI: The prolific, if infamous, Italian environmental artist.

GRAVITY: The big downer.

LUNATION: A nation of fish-eating diving birds, somewhat akin to ducks. (see **DULLARD**)

MAIN-SPRING: The Mighty Mississippi.

MEGA-LITH: Ultraprecise terminology for a really big *lith.*

NADIR (or Nader): American consumer advocate and citizen watchdog.

NEO-LITH: The latest, most chic, *liths* on the market, usually complete with a designer's label.

PLAT-O: An extremely petite and delicate dinner plate to be used when serving *soul food.*

TIME: The brass tick-tocks of reality.

SUN: Apollo's giant chariot of fire, driven by mighty steeds across the sky.

ZEN-ITH: A Zen Zealot, to the Nth degree.

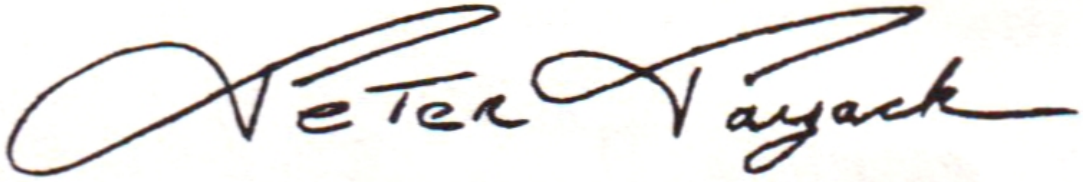
AFTERWORD

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS (A Sincere Note From the Author/Inventor)

If you have any further questions about the astronomical significance and attributes of your Stonehenge Watch, please don't send them to me. It may not seem like much to you, but I just spilled my guts out, in this here booklet-length harangue, with everything I know about that gargantuan heap of crude rubble that is littering the Olde English countryside.

You'd be better off to exhume the decayed body of a long-dead Druid, clone him, and put the question to that stiff!

Sincerely,



Peter Payack

N. Press